

Appln. No. 09/743,225  
Amd. dated May 6, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of February 13, 2004

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-7 (Cancelled)

8 (Previously presented). The multichain peptide-oligomer/polymer conjugate according to claim 24 wherein the protein is avidin, streptavidin, albumin or gamma-globulin.

9 (original). The multichain peptide-oligomer/polymer conjugate according to claim 8 wherein the protein is avidin or streptavidin to which two or four residues of the same or different biotinylated peptides are covalently attached.

10 (Previously presented). The multichain peptide-oligomer/polymer conjugate according to claim 9 wherein the protein is streptavidin and the biotinylated peptide is selected from:

Asn Thr Leu Lys Thr Pro Arg Val Gly Gly  
(residues 1-10 of SEQ ID NO:8)

Lys Asp Lys Ala Thr Phe Gly Thr His Asp Gly  
(residues 1-11 of SEQ ID NO:9)

Cys Ala Thr Leu Arg Val Tyr Lys Gly Gly  
(residues 1-10 of SEQ ID NO:10)

11(Previously presented). The multichain peptide-oligomer/polymer conjugate according to claim 22 wherein the backbone is derived from a non-antigenic synthetic oligomer or polymer.

12(Original). The multichain peptide-oligomer/ polymer conjugate according to claim 11 wherein the non-antigenic synthetic oligomer or polymer comprises identical or different amino acid residues such as linear or branched polylysine, polyglutamic acid, and copolymers thereof optionally together with further amino acids.

Claims 13-21 (Cancelled)

22(Currently amended). A branched multichain peptide-oligomer/polymer conjugate, comprising two or more of the same or different peptides or peptides derivatives attached to a native or synthetic oligomeric or polymeric backbone, wherein the peptide is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:4 and SEQ ID NO:7, and the peptide derivative is selected from the group consisting of a cyclic, a chemical and a modified derivative of a peptide of SEQ ID NO:1, 4 or 7, in which modified peptide the amino acid(s) residue(s) have been replaced by the corresponding D-isomer or by a non-natural amino acid residue.

23 (Previously presented). The multichain peptide-oligomer/polymer conjugate according to claim 22, wherein the oligomeric or polymeric backbone is selected from the group consisting of a native protein, an oligosaccharide, an oligonucleotide and a non-antigenic synthetic oligomer or polymer.

24 (Previously presented). The multichain peptide-oligomer/polymer conjugate according to claim 23, wherein the polymeric backbone is a native protein.

25 (Withdrawn). The multichain peptide-oligomer/polymer conjugate of claim 22, wherein said non-natural amino acid residue is selected from the group consisting of a  $\text{N}\alpha$ -methyl amino acid residue, a  $\text{C}\alpha$ -methyl amino acid residue, a  $\beta$ -methyl amino acid residue,  $\beta$ -alanine, norvaline, norleucine, 4-aminobutyric acid, 2-aminoisobutyric acid, 6-aminohexanoic acid, ornithine, hydroxyproline, sarcosine, citrulline, cysteic acid, and cyclohexylalanine.